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CONTENTS

No 3. DEVELOPMENTS IN THE OMAN SITUATION
(page 6).

25X1

0 k4. BELGIUM REQUESTS UN CAMPAIGN ON NUCLEAR WAR-
FARE EFFECTS

25X1

14 Aug 57

Current Intelligence Bulletin

Page 2

25X1

25X1

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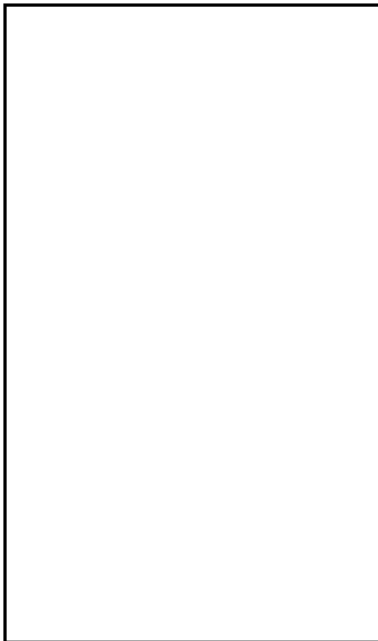
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3. DEVELOPMENTS IN THE OMAN SITUATION

Comment on:

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The Middle East chief of the British Foreign Office told the American embassy in London on 12 August that although the major phase of the Oman campaign would end with the dispersal of the rebels into the hills, no decision had yet been taken on the Sultan of Muscat's request to retain British troops in Oman.

The US army attaché in London has gained the impression that the British War Office does not feel guerrilla operations will be of such magnitude as to require the retention of British units and the Trucial Oman Scouts in Oman. A War Office source told the attaché on 12 August, the day Nizwa fell, that these forces would be returned to their prerebellion locations if the situation remained

as favorable to the Sultan as at present, and that the War Office hoped the Sultan's forces could control the area. The ability of the rebel leaders to retaliate from the hills on the Sultan's forces

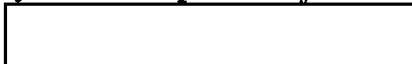
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however, that the Sultan's forces will be inadequate to maintain order.

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London hopes to avoid the Security Council debate threatened by the Arab League decision on 12 August to request an immediate council meeting. The British say they fear that a public debate might spoil relations between King Saud and his Western allies and Iraq. The majority of the Security Council probably would oppose inscription of the Oman item.

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4. BELGIUM REQUESTS UN CAMPAIGN ON NUCLEAR WARFARE EFFECTS

Comment on:

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Belgium on 12 August requested the General Assembly to consider a plan to inform the world of the destructive effects of the armaments race and nuclear weapons. A discussion of the plan at this fall's General Assembly would provide the USSR with another opportunity to insist on a ban on nuclear tests independent of other disarmament measures, and might result in a General Assembly call for a ban on nuclear tests.

The Belgian request was accompanied by a draft resolution which asks the secretary general to submit to the 13th General Assembly a plan for an effective and continuing world-wide publicity campaign under UN auspices concerning the destructive effects of nuclear weapons and "disregarding all ideological or political considerations."

On 1 August, Belgian Foreign Minister Larock told the American embassy that he believed the widespread dissemination of an "impressive scientific report" would increase pressure on the Soviet leaders to reach a disarmament agreement by bringing home to the Soviet people the results of atomic explosions and Western superiority in the field.

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